

Work Task E10: Walker Lake

Partners:	U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Contact:	Gregg Garnett, LC-8455
Purpose:	Evaluate Walker Lake as a possible habitat creation project.
Conservation Measures:	CLRA1, BONY2, RASU2, LEBI1 and BLRA1
Long-term Goal(s):	Provide consistent water into the site to maintain adequate breeding habitat requirements for rail (marsh), southwestern willow flycatcher (wetted/moist forest understory and adjacent open water), and/or native fish habitat.
Location:	River Mile 88.7, California side. Walker Lake is located on lands managed by Imperial National Wildlife Refuge and the Bureau of Land Management.
FY2006 Estimate:	\$75,000 will fund Reclamation staff.
FY2007 Estimate:	\$75,000. Same as previous.
FY2008 Estimate:	\$450,000 will fund Reclamation staff, earthwork, and dredging.
Project Description:	Walker Lake (approximately 40-60 acres) is a historically occupied southwestern willow flycatcher site on the LCR. Currently, Walker Lake maintains a subsurface connection to the Colorado River. Seasonally, surface water is reduced in area or not present in the lake. In addition, high evaporation rates have concentrated salts into the lake and the surrounding soil. The project includes reshaping a wide shallow channel to provide

continual surface flow into Walker Lake to maintain open water, marsh habitat, and flooded adjacent forested habitats throughout the breeding seasons of Yuma clapper rail and southwestern willow flycatcher. This additional water will dilute and flush salts from the lake and surrounding area, providing more suitable substrates for aquatic, emergent, and riparian vegetation which, in turn, will provide increased habitat for terrestrial and aquatic wildlife species. A study plan is available.